GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1346
ANSWERED ON:01.12.2005
COAL BED METHANE EXPLORTION
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item captioned, ONGC keen on coal bed methane projects appeared in Business Line dated July 9, 2005;

(b) if so, the number of CBM blocks in various States ONGC is holding at present;

(c) whether ONGC has awarded the contract to the drilling companies for exploration of CBM;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the time by which production of CBM is likely to be started and the expected production of CBM per day from these blocks?

Answer

MINISTER OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS AND PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The number of CBM blocks, which ONGC is holding on its own or in Consortium with others is, at present, is as follows:

Name of the State	No. of Blocks
West Bengal	1
Jharkhand	5
Madhya Pradesh	1
Maharashtra	1
Gujarat	1
Total	9

(c)&(d):- With reference to the news item dated July 9, 2005, ONGC has already floated a tender for integrated services involving drilling, testing and creation of gas handling facilities. On finalization of the tender, the work will be awarded to the winning company/consortium in early 2006. A total of 19 vertical and 17 state-of-art horizontal wells have been planned to be drilled in 3 exploration blocks through this contract.

(e) The assessment of commercial viability and production can be made only after completion of the exploration and pilot phase in each CBM block. The targeted first commercial production from Jharia block is in 2007. The estimated initial production will be 3 lakhs m3 /day which will be increased in a phased manner.